

# THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON

## Quote:

Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. O LORD God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember the mercies of David thy servant.”

2 Chronicles 6:41-42

## Solomon Prepares Materials for Construction (1 Kings 5; 2 Chronicles 2)

### The men used in preparing the Temple:

1 Kings 5:13 - “**levy**” - see margin - a tribute of men. This was free Israelitish labour.

1 Kings 5:15 - “**And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains;**” - These were all strangers or proselytes dwelling among the Israelites (see 2 Chron 2:17-18).

1 Kings 5:16 - “**three thousand and three hundred**” - cp 2 Chron 2:18 which has 3600. The LXX has 3600.

1 Kings 5:17 - The largest stones were said to have been 11.85m long weighing about 100 tonnes.

### Hiram King of Tyre

Mark at the bottom of 1 Kg 5

Hiram was king of Tyre - a powerful marine trading nation.

- Hiram supported David after he liberated Jerusalem of the Jebusites and was established there as King.
- He provided supplies for the building of David’s house in Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:12).
- Hiram then assisted Solomon with preparing materials and with building the temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 5:1; 2 Chronicles 2:3). Among other things he provided cedar and fir trees (1Kings 5:8).
- Solomon later established a Port at Ezion-geber and with Hiram’s assistance, trading ships went to Tarshish once every 3 years (1 Kings 9:26-28).

Hiram’s actions are typical of the service Britain will provide to the Lord Jesus Christ (the greater than David and Solomon) at his return when he has cleared Jerusalem of the enemy, and been established as King in Jerusalem

They will come to offer gifts to the new King in Jerusalem (Psalm 45:12; 72:10). Their ships will be used in the service of Christ (Isaiah 60:9-11) through which the wealth of the Gentiles will be brought to the Holy Land (Isaiah 23:18) and the temple beautified (Isaiah 60:13).

# Construction of the Temple (1 Kings 6-7; 2 Chronicles 3-4)

Note the measurements of the temple in 1 Kings 6 - almost all are a multiple of 5. Colour them green: v2 (threescore, twenty, thirty), v3 (twenty, ten), v6 (five), v16 (twenty), v17 (forty), v20 (twenty - 3 times), v23 (ten), v24 (five - twice, ten), v25 (ten). Note the two exceptions in 1 Kings 6:6 (six and seven).

1 Kings 6:2 - **“length was threescore cubits”** - 28-30m long.

**“breadth thereof twenty cubits”** - 9.1-10m wide.

**“height thereof thirty cubits”** - 14-15m high.

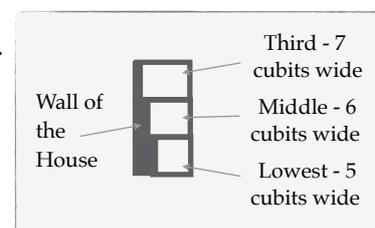
Note by 1 Kings 6:2: These measurements mean the temple was twice the size of the tabernacle.

1 Kings 6:3 - **“porch”** - The height of the porch is given in 2 Chronicles 3:4 - 120 cubits or 55-60m high. It was therefore a tower. Herod’s temple had a similar structure. Some copies of the LXX have it as 20 cubits high.

1 Kings 6:6 The priests chambers around the house were in 3 storeys. The temple wall was built with ledges on which the joists of the side rooms could rest.

**“nethermost”** = “lowest story” (NASB) - NKJV, LXX, Roth similar.

1 Kings 6:7 - **“house”** - Heb “bayeth” - a house or dwelling or habitation, but can also apply to a family. This house was to be the dwelling place for the name of Yahweh (1 Kings 5:3). It was to represent those in whom Yahweh would dwell (2 Corinthians 6:16-18). As stones in Yahweh’s spiritual house we are fashioned away from the site, and in the day of judgment must fit with the chief corner stone (Jesus Christ) (see Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:15-16).



## Solomon’s Prayer at the Dedication fo the Temple (1 Kings 8:23-53)

**vv23-26 - Yahweh keeper of Covenants.**

**vv27-30 - The majesty and condescension of Yahweh.**

**vv31-50 - Seven Petitions for the People:**

1. *The Oath of Ordeal (vv31-32)*

An accused man could attest his innocence before the altar either by invoking on himself a curse, or permitting the priest to do so (Exod 22:11).

2. *Times of National Defeat (vv33-34)*

Solomon knew this would take place (Deut 28; 2 Sam 7:10).

1 Kg 8:33 - **“because they have sinned against thee”** - The cause of their defeat - see Lev 26:14-24; 2 Kg 17:7-18; 18:11-12; 2 Chron 36:11-21.

**“turn again unto thee”** - See Lev 26:40-42; Neh 1:9.

**“in this house”** - better rendered “towards” this house” see margin. Daniel acted on this - Dan 9:4, 18-20.

3. *Times of Drought (vv35-36)*

4. *Various afflictions (vv37-40)*

5. *The Prayer of the Stranger (vv41-43)*

Solomon knew that Yahweh desired the Gentiles to seek Him.

1 Kg 8:42 - **“shall hear of thy great name and of thy strong hand”** - See Jer 13:11 (Israel was to be an example to the nations). Some had seen Yahweh’s marvellous works and come out of the Gentiles (Josh 2:10; Ruth). The Law made provision for this (Exod 12:48-49). See also Jer 33:9.

6. *The Army At War Abroad (vv44-45)*

7. *Israel in Captivity (vv46-50)*

**vv51-53 - Israel’s Privileged Position**

**The Prayer Concludes** with a plea for a blessing on the Temple, the Priests, the people, and finally the King himself (only recorded in 2 Chron 6:40-42).

**vv54-61 - Solomon Again Blesses the People**